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Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 COME-00 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01

SCI-06 FEA-02 INT-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 OIC-04 DRC-01 /153 W
---------- 082858
R 061900Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5375
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 0193

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENGR, EI
SUBJ: ENERGY: IRISH POSITION ON ENERGY CONFERENCE

1. DURING PERSONAL MEETING WITH PRIMIN COSGRAVE SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 2, AMBASSADOR TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO URGE THAT FINANCE MINISTER RICHIE RYAN ALSO ATTEND WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. APPARENTLY THE EXTENT OF US INTEREST IN HAVING FINANCE MINISTERS ATTEND HAD NOT BEEN ALTOGETHER CLEAR TO THE PRIMIN AND HE PROMISED TO SPEAK PERSONALLY TO THE FINMIN ABOUT GOING. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, PRIMIN TOLD AMB HE WOULD INTEREST HIMSELF IN THE DECISION.

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2. AT LUNCEHON WITH PERMSECY HUGH MCCANN FEBRUARY 6 AMB AND DCM

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AGAIN PRESSED VIEW RYAN SHOULD ATTEND. IT BECOME APPARENT
DURING THIS LATTER CONVERSATION, HOWEVER, THAT FITZGERALD, MCCANN
AND OTHERS WITHIN FONOFF WOULD PROBABLY OPPOSE ATTENDANCE BY RICHIE
RYAN. THEIR MOTIVE IN DOING SO REFLECTS A WISH TO BE IN STEP WITH
WHAT THEY THINK MOST OF THEIR COMMUNITY PARTNERS WILL BE DOING AND
MAY ALSO REFLECT INTRA-CABINET RIVALRIES IN GOI.

3. ON OTHER ASPECTS OF WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, MCCANN REVIEWED WITH
AMB AND DCM THE BRUSSELS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4-5 WHICH HE HAD JUST
ATTEND WITH FONMIN GARRET FITZGERALD. MCCANN SAID THAT THERE WAS
A SURPRISING CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS AT THE MEETING AND HIS REPORT
GENERALLY FOLLOWED SCHEEL AND ORTOLI CONVERSATION WITH GREENWALD
(BRUSSELS 750). HE SAID THAT, WHILE THERE WAS A GENERAL WISH TO HAVE
A POSITIVE OUTCOME FROM THE WASHINGTON MEETING, THE COMMUNITY GENERALLY

FELT THAT THE AIM OF THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE NOT TO ARRIVE AT ANY
DECISIONS BUT TO DETERMINE WHICH EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL FORA
ENERGY PROBLEMS SHOULD BE REFERRED TO. HE SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT
IN IRISH VIEW FINANCE PROBLEMS COULD BE HANDLED WITHIN
THE IMF, TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS IN THE OECD, PROBLEMS OF THE
LDC'S WITHIN THE UN, ETC. HE SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY DID NOT WANT TO
ESTABLISH ANY NEW ONGOING INSTITUTIONS. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER,
FORECLOSE THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING SPECIALIZED TASK FORCES
TO HANDLE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IF THIS IS WHAT THE ATTENDEES GENRALLY
WISH TO DO, ALTHOUGH IT QUITE CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT SEE THE EEC
PROMOTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH TASK FORCES.

4. MCCANN SAID THAT SINCE THERE WAS A GENERAL LACK OF ENTHUSIASM TO
HAVE FINANCE MINISTERS ATTEND THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, IT FOLLOWED
IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE THAT THAT PART OF THE AGENDA HAVING TO DO WITH
THE WORK OF THE FINANCE MINISTERS SHOULD BE CHANGED. IN EXPLORING
IRISH VIEWS ON THIS QUESTION, MCCANN ENVISAGED THE FONMINS
THEMSELVES DEALING WITH ECONOMIC AND MONETARY POLICY ASPECTS OF THE
ENERGY PROBLEM IN PLENARY SESSION AS WELL AS WITH GENERAL
POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS. AGAIN, HOWEVER, WE SUSPECT THIS VIEW MAY
BE BASED PRIMARILY UPON INTRACABINET RIVALRIES RATHER THAN ANY
PROFOUND CONCERN ABOUT HOW THE WASHINGTON MEETING SHOULD BE
STRUCTURED. IF IT FINALLY DEVELOPS THAT RICHIE RYAN SHOULD ATTEND
WE COULD WELL EXPECT TO GET AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT VIEW FROM
MCCANN.
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5. MCCANN REPORTED THAT HE WOULD DEFINITELY ATTEND THE
FEB 10 PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AND WOULD POSSIBLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY
PAUL KEATING. FINAL COMPOSITION OF THE IRISH DELEGATION HAS NOT YET
BEEN DECIDED. MOORE

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